

2008 Meeting of Experts of the States Parties to CCW Protocol V

Intervention on National Reporting

Richard Moyes, Landmine Action, 2 July 2008

Mr. Coordinator,

As you noted in your apt and instructive introduction to this subject, June saw the submission of the first national reports on compliance and implementation of Protocol V, pursuant to the decision of the First Conference of High Contracting Parties. The willingness of a majority of those High Contracting Parties with reports due to report on their actions in a public forum is a very positive sign of their continuing commitment to the humanitarian purposes of this Protocol.

States differed, though, in their level of engagement with the reporting process and, as a result, the quality of content and level of detail included in the reports varied greatly. Landmine Action has undertaken an assessment of these initial reports and our analysis and recommendations are available in a detailed paper at the back of the room.

Some of the disparity in the standard of national reporting is due to the open-ended nature of the national reporting forms currently in use. The forms provide little guidance or structure and so do not facilitate the meaningful comparative assessment of State practice that is required in order to aid in the resolution of issues of interpretation and application of the provisions of Protocol V. We hope that States will use the Second Conference of High Contracting Parties to adopt more detailed and structured reporting tools.

The rules of Protocol V are broad and may be open to widely varying interpretations. In this context it is vitally important to develop a clear understanding of State interpretations and practices in order to build consensus regarding the practical requirements Protocol V. As a result, this national reporting mechanism should be understood as vital to ensuring that Protocol V serves as a strong and effective normative instrument of international law.

Thank you Mr. Coordinator